

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P 041400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMJGASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2539

UNCLAS CAIRO 2374

FOR CU/NEA NEWBERRY PASS TO JANE ALDEN UCLA TESL CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US EG JC

SUBJECT: AIN SHAMS ENGLISH TEACHING PROJECT

REF: STATE 38924, CAIRO 8502 AND 1880

1. IF MS ALDEN HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT SHE DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF UCLA FACULTY, PARTICULARLY DONALD BOWEN AND RUSSELL CAMPBELL, WHO HAVE HAD CURRENT AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE RESPECTIVELY WITH AUC ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI), POSSIBLE STRUCTURE OF AIN SHAMS ENGLISH TEACHING PROJECT. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL EXPLORE POSSIBLE UCLA INTEREST IN UNDERTAKING THIS PROJECT IN VIEW OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND ASSOCIATION WITH ELI.

2. AIN SHAMS RECTOR, IN COVERSATION WITH PAO, HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SEMI-AUTONOMOUS "CENTER" WITHIN UNIVERSITY, BUT NOT DIRECTLY UNDER HELMI'S DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER FOLLOWINGTHIS COURSE, BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT HELMI'S KNOWN RESISTANCE TO INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION MAY PROVE TO BE OBSTACLE AND SOURCE OF FRSTRATION TO PROJECT STAFF. IF WE CAN DEVELOP GENERAL OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT THIS FIRST TO EGYPTIAN JWG CO-CHAIRMAN, DR. ISMAIL, WHO IS AWARE OF HELMI PROBLEM, AND THEN TO AIN SHAMS RECTOR. BRITISH COUNCIL HEAD DANIEL SHARES OUR VIEW OF HELMI.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH FORD FOUNDATION CONSULTANTS, THEY NOTED PROGRAM UNDERWAY AT AIN SHAMS, TO WHICH FORD FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN SUPPORT, WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TOJ"NATIONAL CENTER
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FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION" AND SUGGESTED THAT SIMILAR GOAL MIGHT BE

POSSIBLE FOR ENGLISH TEACHING CENTER.

4. FORD FOUNDATION CONSULTANTS ALSO RECOMMENDED, BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE, SELECTION OF A SINGLE UNIVERSITY AS CONTRACTOR FOR SUCH PROJECT, NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION ESPECIALLY FINE PERFORMANCE OF UCLA WITH ELI.

5. EMBASSY IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE PROGRAM BEGIN IN FALL 1975, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, AND, IN THIS AIM, BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO PRESENT AT LEAST OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS FOR THEIR REVIEW AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. IF MS ALDEN'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME HER RETURN TO CAIRO TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL AND DISCUSSION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION WITH BOTH DR. ISMAIL AND AIN SHAMS RECTOR.

6. DEPARTMENT AND MS ALDEN'S EARLY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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